

A new species of *Aspidistra* (Convallariaceae) from Yunnan, China

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Abstract:

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A new species, *Aspidistra hekouensis* H.Li, C.L. Long & Bogner, is described. The species is similar to *Aspidistra glandulosa* Pierre ex Gagnep. from Laos, but differs in having maculate leaf-blades, an urceolate perigone tube with several longitudinal grooves, six stamens, six tepals (instead of 8–10 as in *A. glandulosa*) and a large peltate stigma.

Zusammenfassung:

Eine neue *Aspidistra*-Art, *A. hekouensis* H.Li, C.L. Long & Bogner, wird beschrieben. Sie ist ähnlich der *Aspidistra glandulosa* Pierre ex Gagnep. aus Laos, unterscheidet sich aber von dieser durch gefleckte Blattspreiten, eine krugförmige Perigonröhre mit mehreren Längsfurchen, sechs Staubgefäßen, sechs Tepalen (statt 8–10 bei *A. glandulosa*) und einer großen, schildförmigen Narbe.

During a visit to the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden, Yunnan, in 1995, one of the authors (J. B.) found a cultivated, flowering *Aspidistra* in this garden. When later trying to identify this plant it turned out that it is apparently new to science (not described in GAGNEPAIN 1934). A wild collection was made in the dense forest of Hekou, Yunnan, by C. L. Long and S. X. Yang in 1996, which is designated as the type.

Aspidistra hekouensis H. Li, C.L. Long & Bogner, **spec. nov.**

Holotypus: China, Yunnan, Hekou, dense forest, 240 m, 10.3.1996, Long & Yang 96705 (KUN).

Species *A. glandulosae* Pierre ex Gagnep. affinis sed folio maculato, perigonii tubo urceolato, sulcos longitudinales ferenti, perigonii lobis sex et staminibus sex differt.

Evergreen perennial herb with creeping rhizome. Rhizome 6–7 cm long and 0.6–1.3 cm in diam., nodes 6–7, swollen, emerging unbranched cylindric roots. Leaves 2–4, closely set; cataphylls 3–4, enclosing the base of petiole, 2–8 cm long and ca. 2 cm wide, the latest cataphyll the longest, deep wine-red when young, getting brown soon and fibrous with age (old part of rhizome covered with the fibres of cataphylls). Petiole 10–18 cm long, below 0.5–0.7 cm and above 0.4–0.5 cm in diam., canaliculate, dark green. Leaf-blade elliptic, coriaceous, 12–22 cm long and 8–12.5 cm wide, base attenuate to obtuse and decurrent at petiole, apex cuspidate;

venation parallel-pinnate, middle vein very strong, 8–9 primary lateral veins on each side, ascending towards apex, margin entire, hyaline; blade dark green with pale green or yellowish, orbiculate spots of 2–3 mm in diam. Flowers solitary; pedicel 3–4 cm long and 2–3 mm in diam.; bracts 3, dark purple, coriaceous, ovate, 1.3–1.8 cm long and 0.5–1.5 cm wide, concave; perigone depressed-urceolate, basal part connate, 1.5–1.8 cm high and 1.8–2.3 cm in diam., mouth strongly constricted and opening 4–5 mm in diam.; blackish purple inside and outside, with numerous longitudinal grooves, outside slightly verrucose, inside smooth; free perigone lobes 6, coriaceous or fleshy when fresh, oblong, 5–6 mm long and 3 mm wide, reflexed, yellow above, dark purple beneath; stamens 6, inserted at the base of the perigone tube well below the stigma; filaments very short, outcurved, less than 1 mm long, yellow; anthers oblong, ca. 2.5 mm long, dehiscing by lateral slits; stigma peltate, very large, 1.5–1.8 cm in diam., dark purple, radiate-rugose on upper surface, sessile; ovary much thinner than stigma, ca. 2.5 mm in diam., 3-locular, one ovule per locule. Berries subglobose, ca. 1.2 cm high and ca. 1.5 cm in diam., yellowish green, with 12 longitudinal wings, these 1–2 mm wide, between the wings densely alate-verrucose, pericarp of berry 2–3 mm thick, 3-locular with one seed in each locule. Seed subglobose, ca. 7 mm in diam., white. Flowering from March (Hekou) to July (Kunming).

Additional collection:

Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden, VI.1995, flowering, *Bogner 2216* (M).

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Literature

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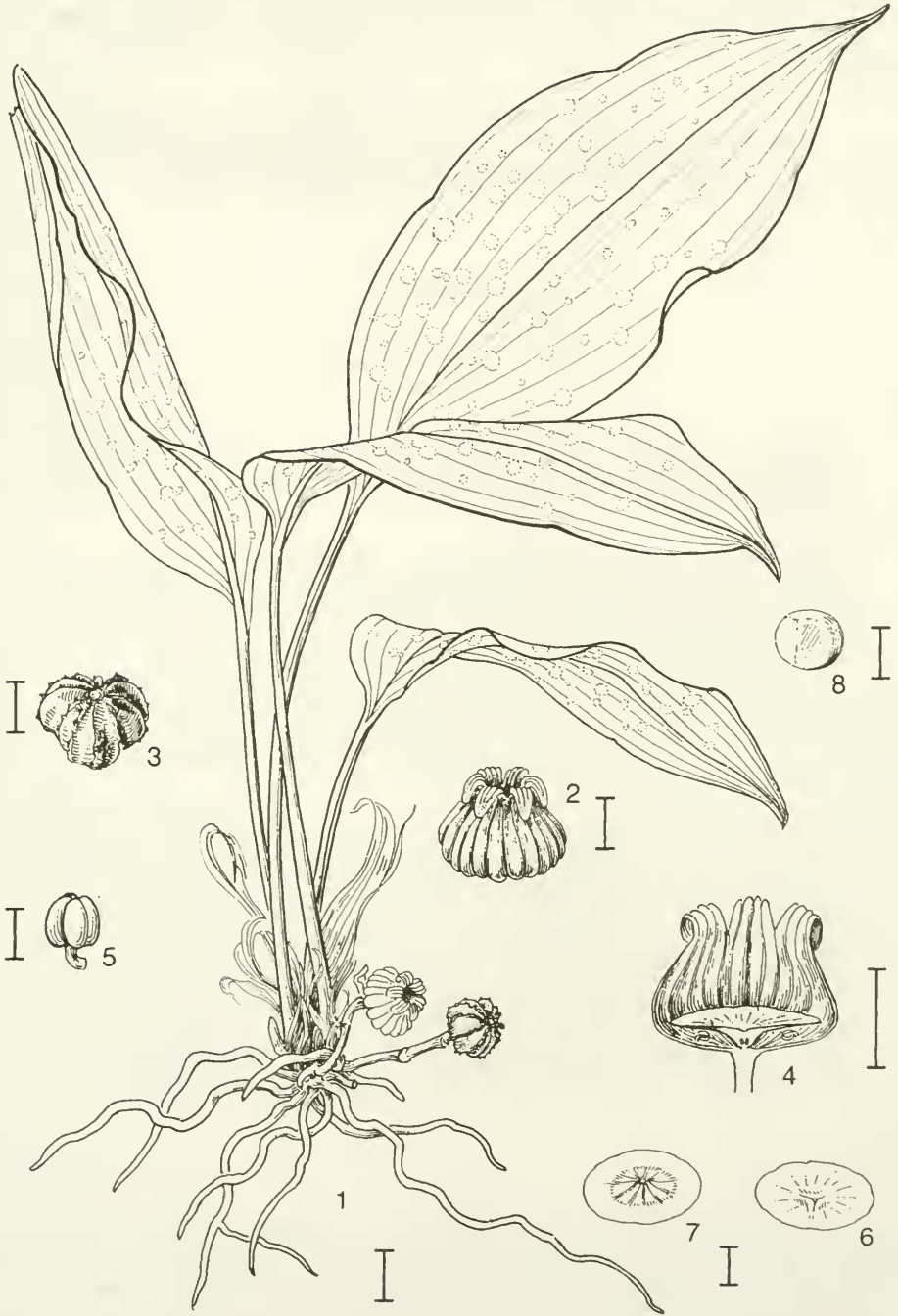


Fig. 1: *Aspidistra hekouensis* H. Li, C.L. Long & Bogner. 1: Habit; 2: Flower; 3: Berry; 4: Longitudinal section of the flower (stigma and ovary with part of perigone); 5: Stamen; 6: Stigma from above; 7: Stigma from below; 8: Seed. All from Long & Yang 96705 (KUN). Scale bars: 1: 1.5 cm; 2, 3, 6, 7: 0.5 cm; 4: 1 cm; 5: 2.5 mm; 8: 7 mm.